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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE

1. I doubt that there was or is direct Soviet supervision of education in Czechoslovakia; there are no Soviets in the Ministry of Education, Science and Arts in Prague. As in most other fields, the only supervision is through the Czech Communist Party. In the summer of 1951 a new man was appointed to the Central Secretariat of the CP to supervise the activities of the Ministry of Education. Bohumil Mucha, who is about 35-38 years old, was a teacher by profession, but since 1945 he has served in various CP posts in the Cultural Propaganda Department. The CP paid a great deal of attention to educational problems, and I believe that Dr Zdenek Nejedly was only the nominal head of the Ministry of Education, and that the entire education system was run by Mucha and two deputy ministers, Pavlasek ("higher learnings") and Mrs Karlovska ("other schools"). Koubek (fnu), head of the Teachers' Union of the ROH (Trade Unions), also is important.

2. The real danger lies in the Soviet domination of the lives and characters of the children of Czechoslovakia; in time the entire nation will be affected. The greatest danger is with the children under 10 years old. I know parents who were extremely unhappy about the influence of Communist ideology on their children, but they were afraid to speak openly with their children for fear the children would mention the statements in quarters (the Sokol, for example) where it would harm the parents.

It was easier to explain the situation to older children, though they were also strongly influenced by the Communist educational system. Older children were even more apt to be driven away from family influence because they were forced to join such organizations as Sokol and Pionyr. There was no escape from

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the Communist indoctrination; special Communist organizations occupied all the free time of the young people. Furthermore, more and more of the teachers who had taught under the former regime are being replaced with individuals trained under the Communist system. School teachers "interviewed" school children concerning such things as whether their parents had a picture of Stalin in the home, whether their parents liked Soviet movies, whether they heard "slandering" in foreign broadcasts. The new school textbooks also demonstrated how universal was the indoctrination. The primary goal of all teaching was to convince the youth to hate the West and make the highest sacrifices for the cause of Communism; the theme of all stories in the textbooks, therefore, was that the extreme and highest happiness and honor is to die for Stalin and for Communism.

3. There is a great danger that the younger generation in Czechoslovakia, particularly those in military service, will be so influenced by this type of education that they will be fanatic Communists, really willing to give their lives in a fight for Communism. Even the older group (10-20 yrs of age) will be strongly affected. They were still somewhat influenced by their parents' beliefs, but with no opportunity to learn about the free Western World, their resistance to the Communist ideology will weaken. The best moral resistance will be found among the children of the intelligentsia. Much also depends upon economic developments in Czechoslovakia. Should the situation materially improve, the moral resistance of the masses would weaken and the danger of "Communization" would increase.
4. As far as I know, foreign students or persons from other countries in Czechoslovakia for training include only citizens of Eastern European countries, China and Greece. I did not know any of these people and do not have any information concerning their activities.

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